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(b) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed talks would be held in August–September next.

Hindi

*148 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been received recently from the students of the high schools in the City of Madras about the introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) No, Sir; but some representations were received in 1961.

(b) No action was considered necessary on the representation.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : What is the present position of Hindi with regard to the S.S.L.C. Examination ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is the examination. But there is no obligation on the part of the students to secure the minimum marks for eligibility to College course.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will this condition be allowed to continue for some more years?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I cannot say anything about the future. I can only explain what the present position is.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, in view of the fact that high school students, specially those from the mufassal find it difficult to learn Hindi and get pass marks in it, will the Government see that this is continued for some more years to come?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the main question put by the hon. Member is about the representation made by certain students in favour of introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject.

Newspapers

MR. CHAIRMAN : As the hon. Member Dr. A. Sreenivasan is not in his seat, the question and the answer thereto will be printed in the official report of the proceedings.

*149 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to enact a law protecting newspapers from prosecution in reporting the proceedings of the Legislature; and